

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

CIEP-02 SPC-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01

OMB-01 L-03 SS-20 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01

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R 051730Z MAR 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6537

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION GENEVA

USINT ALGIERS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 1352

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, SP, IS TS, MO, AG, EEC

SUBJ: EC MEDITERRANEAN POLICY

REFS: A) EC BRUSSELS 933

B) EC BRUSSELS 0772

C) EC BRUSSELS 1325

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D) EC BRUSSELS 1328

1. THERE WAS NO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF EC MEDITERRANEAN POLICY AT THE SHORT MARCH 4 EC COUNCIL MEETING (FOREIGN MINISTERS). THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CONTINUE ITS DISCUSSION AIMED AT REACHING AGREEMENT ON A NEW NEGOTIATING MANDATE WHICH WOULD BE APPROVED AT THE APRIL 1-2 COUNCIL MEETING.

2. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING THE NEW MANDATE DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS. (REFTELS A AND B DESCRIBE THE STATUS OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES.) OUR SOURCES ARE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT CONTINUED DISCUSSIONS ON AN ITEM-BY-ITEM BASIS WILL PROBABLY BE FRUITLESS. MEMBER STATES HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO DROP INDIVIDUAL MANDATE IS AVAILABLE. TO OVERCOME THIS DEAD-LOCK THE GERMAN PRESIDENCY, WORKING WITH THE COMMISSION, PLANS TO DEVELOP A COMPROMISE PACKAGE SOLUTION, AVOIDING THE ITEM-BY-ITEM APPROACH WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED THE DISCUSSIONS TO DATE. SUCH A COMPROMISE WOULD INVOLVE THE KEY OUTSTANDING ISSUES, E. G. ALGERIAN WINE, THE FORM AND DIMENSION OF EC FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION, SOCIAL BENEFITS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR FOREIGN WORKERS EMPLOYED IN THE COMMUNITY. IF THE COMPROMISE ON THESE KEY ISSUES IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE MEMBER STATES MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT IT SHOULD BE FAIRLY EASY TO REACH AGREEMENT ON OTHER SMALLER ISSUES.

3. THE DETAILS OF THE COMPROMISE HAVE YET TO BE WORKED OUT, BUT OUR GERMAN SOURCES HOPE TO BE ABLE TO PRESENT A DOCUMENT TO THE MEMBER STATES DURING THE WEEK OF MARCH 10. IN THEIR VIEW THIS SHOULD ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME FOR CONSIDERATION IN CAPITALS AS WELL AS DISCUSSIONS IN BRUSSELS IN THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES PRIOR TO THE KEY APRIL 1-2 COUNCIL MEETING.

4. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE NINE FOREIGN MINISTERS' DISCUSSION OF EC-ARAB COOPERATION, (REFTEL C) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SCHEEL SAID THAT THE COMMUNITY'S POLITICAL INITIATIVES WITH THE ARABS SHOULD NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT EC MEDITERRANEAN POLICY BUT RATHER SHOULD PLAY A COMPLEMENTARY ROLE. GREENWALD

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